


COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 10, 2006 (BOS Mtg. 6/27/06)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James E. Barnett, County Attorney 

SUBJECT: Proposed amendments to York County Code §§ 4-33 and 4-37, Dangerous and Vicious Dogs, and other amendments to Chapter 4, Animals and Fowl

The 2006 General Assembly adopted House Bills 340 and 1039, and Senate Bill 200, amending those statutes relative to dangerous and vicious dogs upon which County code §§ 4-33 and 4-37 are based, and House Bill 339 regarding dog and cat licenses. Attached is a draft ordinance which incorporates those changes adopted by the General Assembly.

You will note that a “dangerous dog” is now one which has bitten, attacked, or inflicted injury on a person, or on a companion animal that is specifically either a dog or a cat, or killed a dog or a cat. There are also some amendments to the procedure by which the animal control officer or any law enforcement officer can bring the dog and its owner before the General District Court to have the dog declared either dangerous or vicious. You will note also that new language requires the owner of a dog found to be dangerous to register the animal with a new Dangerous Dog Registry which both House Bills now establish. The details of the new Dangerous Dog Registry are not set out in the attachment, but for your information the registry will be maintained by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Veterinary Services. Information on the registry shall be maintained on a website accessible to animal control officers. The registry will contain such information as the name of the dog, a photograph of the dog, its sex, age, weight and breed, the acts that resulted in the dog being designated as dangerous, the address where the animal is maintained, and the name and address of the owner. By January 31 of each year until such time as the dog is deceased, the owner must submit a renewal registration, containing any updates to the required information. Registration will require a \$100 initial registration fee and a \$35 annual renewal registration fee.

The attached ordinance also amends additional sections of Chapter 4, generally pertaining to licensing regulations, to incorporate all of the changes adopted by the General Assembly effective July 1, 2006. I recommend its adoption.

Barnett/3440:sw
Attachment

- Proposed Ordinance No. 06-7